[English]

Production of Coal in N.E., States

3496. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of coal in North Eastern region during last three years, State-wise ;

(b) whether any project has been taken up to minimise the contents of sulphur in coal ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) Production of coal in North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) under Coal India Limited and located in the state of Assam, during the last three years had been as under :

(Million Tonnes)

1993-94	-	1.20
1994-95	-	1.19
1995-96	-	0.82

(b) and (c) North Eastern Coal fields is contemplating to have a coal washery project at Tikak of 0.60 million tonnes under Build-Own-Operate (B.O.O.) principle for reduction of ash content and sulphur content to a limited extent S & T projects have been taken up for establishing the technology for desulphurisation of Assam coal. Techno-economic feasibility of desulphurisation of Assam coal is yet to be established.

Export of Cotton

3497. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the MINISTER OF TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the projected export of 13.25 bales of cotton for which the quotas have already been released is likely to result in an acute shortage of raw cotton in the country ;

(b) If so, whether the Government intend to reduce the projected export quota of raw cotton to meet the domestic shortage; and

(c) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Government have so far announced a quota of 14.90 lakh bales of cotton for export this year. Keeping in view the comfortable domestic cotton situation this year, there is no likelihood of shortage because of the export quota releases.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Constitution of Hindi Advisory Committee

3498. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is lagging behind in use of official language Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the time by which Hindi Advisory Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has been following the instructions issued by the Department of Official Languages and are also making efforts to fulfill the targets laid down in the Annual Programme issued by the above Department. Due to sustained efforts there is improvement in Hindi work in the Ministry. This Ministry has been awarded "Indira Gandhi Rajabhasha Shield" 4 times. During the last 2 years i.e. in 1994 & 1995 this was continuously awarded to us.

(b) The term of present Hindi Salahakar Samiti of this Ministry is going to expire on 22.9.96. The process of its re-constitution has already been started. The nomination for membership in this Samiti has been asked from the concerned Departments/Institutions and after receiving the names from them the Samiti would be reconstituted.

[Translation]

Trade with Western African Countries

3499. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Western African countries engaged in import and export with India and the business transacted during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in the above countries for export of Indian goods;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether due to limited production in the Western African countries goods are mostly imported from the Western countries and the goods imported from the Western countries are dearer than those manufactured in India;

(e) whether in view of the above, it is not beneficial to increase the export of goods manufactured in the